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Forces Are Shifting In Favor of the U.S., Shultz Tells Senate

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Secretary of State George P. Shultz told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday that the United States dramatically has improved its overall strength relative to the Soviet Union's in the past four years, paving the way for possible achievements in arms control and U.S.-Soviet relations across-the-board.

In the first of a series of hearings intended to be a "comprehensive review" of U.S. foreign policy, Shultz portrayed the United States and the West as a whole as increasingly strong militarily, economically and politically, while the Soviets face imposing difficulties.

A decade ago, the Soviets "had reason for confidence that what they call the global 'correlation of forces' was shifting in their favor," Shultz said. But today, he declared, "we have reason to be confident that the 'correlation of forces' is shifting back in our favor."

Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, the second witness, took a notably darker view. He depicted the Soviets as "building on" a numerical military superiority, "dramatically improving" the quality of their weaponry, continuing to "widen their conventional advantage in nearly every force category" and "expanding the geographical reach" of their forces.

None of the senators on the panel, holding its first day of high-profile hearings under the new chair-

manship of Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.), said or asked about the divergence of the two outlooks.

Weinberger expressed strong opposition to proposed cuts in the military budget request that President Reagan will send to Congress on Monday.

And he refused under heavy questioning from Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) to retract a Defense Department statement, issued in his name last Friday, saying that those who work for success in defense reductions "really mean success in weakening the security of the country."

Glenn demanded that Weinberger apologize for "challenging the loyalty" of critics, especially to the immediate target of Friday's blast, Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.).

Weinberger said he did not harbor "the slightest suggestion of evil motives" in proponents of military cuts. However, he would neither apologize for nor take back the statement made by his press spokesman, Michael I. Burch, and blamed reporters for not checking Burch's remarks with him before publishing them.

Lugar, in a statement that won praise from Democrats and fellow Republicans, opened the hearings by saying that the time is "long overdue" to reexamine the bases of

U.S. actions in the world because of major changes and strains in the postwar policy of "containment."

Lugar referred to the growth of Soviet military power since the 1960s and the shattering of American political consensus about foreign policy due to the Vietnam experience.

Lugar paid special attention to Central America in his opening statement and his questioning of

Shultz and Weinberger, saying that "scarcely has any foreign policy issue come before the Congress in recent years over which opinion has been more divided."

He added that the nation seems unprepared to deploy U.S. forces directly in the area, to support the program of "covert assistance" to anti-government rebels in Nicaragua or to accept the actions of the Nicaraguan regime. "We simply must overcome our divisions on this issue in the Congress if we are to assist in the development of peaceful and fundamental change in Nicaragua," Lugar said.

Shultz, in a lengthy prepared statement that took about an hour to read, seemed to approve a broad charter for covert U.S. actions against the Soviets in various parts of the world.

"Experience shows we cannot deter or undo Soviet geopolitical encroachments except by helping, in one way or another, those resisting directly on the ground," he said.

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NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
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NP01>U.S./USSR/>BROKAW: Geneva: Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet >ARMS TALKS>Foreign Minister Gromyko have completed a long day of negotiations. Good evening, I'm Tom Brokaw with NBC Nightly News from Geneva, where tonight Secretary Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko emerged from nearly eight hours of talks, this time, with a plan of where to go from here in their efforts to control the nuclear arms race. GEORGE SHULTZ (secretary of State): We envisage two delegations. Each of the delegations will be divided into three groups. One group will address strategic nuclear arms. Another group will address intermediate-range nuclear arms. Another group will address space arms, whether based on Earth or in space.

BROKAW: Shultz cautioned everyone not to expect too much from these talks. SHULTZ: We can't be sure where these negotiations will lead, and clearly, we have a long road ahead of us. There are many tough and complicated issues still to be resolved. But we have, here in Geneva, agreed on the objectives for new negotiations on nuclear and space arms.

BROKAW: During their meetings today, both sides had a spirited exchange on a variety of issues, including not just arms control but also human rights violations in the Soviet Union. When the meetings broke up, they had not yet agreed on when they would meet again, although there is considerable speculation the next meeting will occur in Moscow, perhaps in a month or six weeks. Tonight, Secretary of State Shultz made himself available to all four American television networks for interviews. Pardon my vernacular, Mr. Secretary, but the Russians have been raising hell about 'Star Wars' in public. Did they do so in private today? SHULTZ: Well, we had some very extensive discussion of our idea of strategic defense and our idea, the president's idea that it makes sense to have strategic stability and deterrence depend more on defense than it has in the past. In other words, to move away from the notion that we have deterrence because we can both do so much damage to each other, toward the notion that we have deterrence because we both have a lot of defenses.

BROKAW: But does that extensive discussion mean that you were able to persuade them of your point of view even the smallest bit? SHULTZ: Well, I wouldn't say that we persuaded them, but it's an important subject to discuss. They have some different views about it. What I can say is, obviously, that we agreed on this joint statement,

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